

Roland M. Toups
Chair

Frances T. Henry
Vice Chair

Pat A. Strong
Secretary

E. Joseph Savoie
Commissioner of
Higher Education



BOARD OF REGENTS
P. O. Box 3677
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3677
Phone (225) 342-4253, FAX (225) 342-9318
www.regents.state.la.us

William D. Blake
Scott O. Brame
Richard E. D'Aquin
Reggie Dupré
Stanley J. Jacobs
Robert W. Levy
William A. Oliver
W. Clinton Rasberry, Jr.
Virgil Robinson, Jr.
William Clifford Smith
Artis L. Terrell, Jr.
Adonis Ducreé, Student Member

May 13, 2004

Contact: Kevin Hardy

Regents Host National Technology Purchasing Collaborative

Members of the American TelEdcommunications Alliance (ATAlliance), a nationwide collaborative of state educational technology purchasing representatives, met in Baton Rouge this week to evaluate videoconferencing and associated integration products for possible purchase by state institutions. ATAlliance was created to leverage multiple-state buying power and ensure participating states the best possible price for technology and telecommunications services, for use in public elementary/secondary and postsecondary education systems, as well as by other state agencies.

A technical evaluation of products by ATAlliance was conducted last month in Michigan. This week, at the Claiborne State Office Building in Baton Rouge, the collaborative's purchasing representatives will settle on which system or systems best meet the needs of all the participating states and organizations, and work toward negotiating an optimum volume price break.

"The meeting this week in Baton Rouge represents a big win for Louisiana," said meeting organizer Mike Abbiatti, Board of Regents Associate Commissioner for Learning and Technology. "While Louisiana is not independently a member of ATAlliance, we are involved in this process through our membership in the 16-state Southern Regional Education Board. By hosting this meeting in Baton Rouge, we're ensuring that Louisiana has the opportunity to be a player in this important effort to leverage state resources. The ATAlliance approach has great potential for Louisiana's 'Enterprise Technology' philosophy, which drives our efforts to ensure that all state entities are working toward a common set of technology goals."

Abbiatti said that ATAlliance representatives will meet next with Louisiana technology purchasing representatives to discuss the collaborative's potential value for Louisiana.